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ABSTRACT

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Rockland Community College provides direct financial assistance to high risk students. This study compares the performances of 180 part-time EOP students enrolled for the fall 1971 semester (experimental group) with the performances of a randomly selected group of 47 part-time regular students (control group). During the years between 1967 and 1974, the experimental group attempted an average number of 5.46 credits per fall semester, and passed 4.06, a 74.46 percent pass rate. The control group attempted an average of 5.8 credits and passed 4.7, an 80.49 percent pass rate. Since course load is generally considered to affect passing, this study suggests that EOP students register for fewer courses. The experimental group attended Rockland for an average of 5.32 semesters, completing 22.69 degree credits. The control group attended an average of 5.37 semesters, completing 23.20 credits. Twenty percent of the experimental group, and 24.5 percent of the control group had earned degrees by fall 1975. The characteristics of the two groups with regard to dropping in and out of college are also evaluated. Data are organized into tables. (NHM)

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EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS OF

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM STUDENTS

PART TIME STUDENTS

ENROLLMENT OF FALL 1971

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76-C

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SUMMARY

In this study the performances of 180 part time Educational Opportunity Program students (experimental group) are compared to a randomly selected group of 57 part time regular students (control group) at Rockland Community College (RCC).

The comparison between the Experimental Group and the Control Group students show that the Experimental Group consistently fail to pass as many credits as the Control Group. Since the Experimental Group students are high risk students thus in and of itself is not a surprising bit of data. The interesting data concerns the amount of course credits attempted (see Tables I, II, and III) by the Experimental Group. In the regular Fall and Spring semesters we find them taking only 0.3 and 0.5 credits less than the Control Group, while in the Summer sessions they attempted 0.6 credits more than the Control Group. It might be advisable to schedule the Experimental Group for less courses, if we assume that course load will affect passing.

COMPARISON BETWEEN PART-TIME E.O.P. STUDENTS

AND PART-TIME CONTROL STUDENTS

TABLE I

AVERAGE CREDITS ATTEMPTED AND PASSED

FALL SEMESTER

	E.O.P. (exp.)	Control	Diff
Attempted	5.5	5.8	
Passed	4.1	4.7	
Difference	1.4	1.1	(0.3)

TABLE II

AVERAGE CREDITS ATTEMPTED AND PASSED

SPRING SEMESTER

	E.O.P. (exp.)	Control	Diff
Attempted	5.3	5.8	
Passed	4.2	5.2	
Difference	1.1	.6	(0.5)

TABLE III

AVERAGE CREDITS ATTEMPTED AND PASSED

SUMMER SESSIONS

	E.O.P. (exp.)	Control	Diff
Attempted	4.9	4.3	
Passed	3.9	4.1	
Difference	1.0	0.2	(0.8)

When we compare the data in Table IV with that of Table III, we find that attendance at Rockland Community College (RCC) Summer session drops off in absolute numbers of students as semesters of attendance accrue.

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE

SUMMER SESSION

	E.O.P.(exp.)		Control	
Session	Number of Students in Attendance	Percentage*	Number of Students in Attendance	Percentage**
1	35	19.44	13	22.81
2	18	10.00	7	12.28
3	12	6.67	2	3.51
4	2	1.11	-	-

As far as total numbers of semesters attended we find that (see Table V) there is a 0.05 semester difference between the two groups; for all practical purposes a difference which has no meaning.

* Based on 180 Students
** Based on 57 Students

TABLE V

AVERAGE NUMBER OF SEMESTERS ATTENDING RCC

E.O.P.(exp.)	Control
5.32	5.37

When we compare the number of credits earned (see Table VI) by each group we find that there is a difference of only 0.51 credits; again a difference of little practical meaning.

TABLE VI

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEGREE CREDITS COMPLETED BY STUDENTS STILL IN ATTENDANCE AT RCC

E.O.P. (exp)	Control
22.69	23.20

It has been cause for speculation, from time to time, that the student of today is exhibiting a behavior of "Dropping Out and In"; rather than a consistent steady progress toward a degree. In Table VII we compare the two groups for this phenonenon. We find that 38 of the experimental group and 18 of the control groups have carried out their activity one or more time to the final drop out; but the "Drop Out and In" hypothesis is not borne out for those still registered and going toward a degree; twenty-one of the experimental group exhibits this behavior while none of the control group shows such behavior.

TABLE VII

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO DROPPED OUT AND IN

A*

	E.O.P.(exp)		Control		% Diff
	#	%	#	%	
1-0	85	47.22	27	47.37	
2-1	29	16.11	16	28.07	
3-2	8	4.44	2	3.51	
4-3	1	.56	-	-	
	123	68.33	45	78.95	10.62

B**

	E.O.P.(exp)		Control		
	#	%	#	%	
1-1	16	8.89	-	-	
2-2	4	2.22	-	-	
3-3	1	.56	-	-	
	21	11.67	-	-	(11.67)

* "A" represent students who are currently dropped out.

** "B" represent students who have dropped out one or more times and are currently registered.

When we examine the next group who received a degree (see Table VIII) we find that thirty-six of the Experimental Group and fourteen of the Control Group received their degrees. On a percentage basis we find that of the Experimental Group, 20 percent received a degree while 24.56 percent received a degree in the Contral Group.

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED DEGREES BY FALL 1975

	E.O.P.(exp)		Control		% Diff
	#	%	#	%	
AAS	22	61.11	10	71.43	10.32
AA	14	38.89	4	28.57	(10.32)
	36	100.00	14	100.00	

Prior enrollment was examined (see Table IX) for each group and it was found that twenty five of the Experimental Group were students prior to Fall 1971 with ten in the Control Group in that category.

TABLE IX

GRADUATES WHO WERE ENROLLED PRIOR TO FALL 1971

	E.O.P. (exp)		Control	
	#	%	#	%
Fall 1967	4	16.00	1	10.00
Spring 1968	1	4.00	-	-
Fall 1968	-	-	2	20.00
Spring 1969	3	12.00	3	30.00
Fall 1969	1	4.00	-	-
Summer 1970	-	-	1	10.00
Fall 1970	10	40.00	3	30.00
Spring 1971	6	24.00	-	-
TOTAL	25	100.00	10	100.00

EXPERIMENTAL GROUP

EXPERIMENTAL GROUP-PART TIME STUDENTS

This section represents a subset of data from a large study of all Educational Oppurtunity Program (E.O.P.) students at Rockland Community College (R.C.C.). All of the part-time E.O.P. students who were registered for Fall of 1971 (N=180) are the source of data variables in the accompanying tables.

The first E.O.P. group was not a true entering Fall 1971 group; 106 were actually attending college prior to Fall 1971 and were picked as E.O.P. students when the direct financial aid program started at Rockland Community College. No attempt has been made to identify students who were previously assisted by tuition credit in prior years under H.E.O.P.

The average number and percentage of course credits attempted and passed are shown in Table I and Table II for the Fall and Spring semesters. The Fall course credits passed average a rate of slightly over 74% with an decrease in the rate to slightly under 73% for the Spring semesters. The average credits attempted for each student was 5.46% for Fall semesters and 5.29 credits for Spring semesters.

The attendance at Summer sessions is presented in Table III with the average credits attempted 4.86 with an 80.36% rate of passing. The number of Summer sessions attended is presented in Table IV. The majority of students in E.O.P. who attended Summer sessions attended only one session .

The number of semesters of attendance (seeTable V) range from one semester to thirteen semesters with an average attendance of 5.32 semesters.

The students who had cummulative credits were found (see Table VI) to have an average cummulative credits of 16.0 This average reflects only those students who had not graduated and had accumulated credits up to the Spring 1975 semester.

The "Drop Out-Drop In" phenomena is examined in Table VII with two categories (A students currently dropped; B students currently returned to R.C.C.). Examining the Dropped Out but not returned group, we find that 123 dropped out and were not registered for Sp'75. If we examine the B categories of students who dropped out one or more times and registered Sp'75, we find that they represent 11.7% of the total group; not a very large group representing a "Drop Out- Drop In" phenomena.

In examining Tables VIII and IX we find that 180 actual Fall 1971 E.O.P. students graduated a total of 11 students or roughly 6%.

Out of 180 part time Fall 1971 E.O.P students (11 and under credit hours per semester), there were 70 first time students enrolled for 1971.

TABLE I

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

FALL SEMESTER BY YEAR

YEAR	Number of Students	Number of Credits Attempted	Average # of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Passed	Average # of Credits Passed	Percent of Passing
1967	6	26	4.33	11	1.83	42.31
1968	5	17	3.40	17	3.40	100.00
1969	15	85	5.67	59	3.93	69.41
1970	74	360	4.86	327	4.41	90.83
1971	180 *	946	5.26	659	3.66	69.66
1972	91	520	5.71	351	3.86	67.50
1973	62	386	6.23	315	5.08	81.61
1974	42	252	6.00	191	4.55	75.79
TOTAL	475 **	2592		1930		74.46
AVERAGE			5.46		4.06	

* Out of List of 380 E.O.P. names for Fall 1971, 270 students actually took credit courses. 180 out of 270 were part-time students (eleven and under credit hours).

** Duplicate count

TABLE II

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

SPRING SEMESTER BY YEAR

YEAR	Number of Students	Number of Credits Attempted	Average # of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Passed	Average # of Credits Passed	Percent of Passing
1968	5	16	3.20	13	2.60	81.25
1969	10	38	3.80	32	3.20	84.21
1970	17	81	4.76	53	3.12	65.43
1971	94	505	5.37	437	4.65	86.53
1972	128	691	5.40	502	3.92	72.65
1973	85	519	6.11	401	4.72	77.26
1974	65	303	4.66	271	4.17	89.44
1975	42	205	4.88	170	4.05	82.93
TOTAL	446 *	2,358		1879		72.69
AVERAGE			5.29		4.21	

* Duplicate count

TABLE III

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

SUMMER SESSION BY YEAR

YEAR	Number of Students	Number of Credits Attempted	Average # of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Passed	Average # of Credits Passed	Percent of Passing
1968	2	6	2.00	6	2.00	100.00
1969	9	38	4.22	27	3.00	71.05
1970	6	21	3.50	17	2.83	80.95
1971	29	131	4.52	124	4.27	94.66
1972	92	454	4.93	355	3.86	78.19
1973	53	282	5.32	216	4.08	76.00
1974	22	104	4.73	87	3.95	83.65
1975	4	18	4.50	15	3.75	83.33
Totals	217 *	1054		847		80.36
AVERAGE			4.86		3.90	

* Duplicate count

TABLE IV

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

SUMMER SESSIONS

Semesters	Number of Students in Attendance	Percent*
1	35	19.44
2	18	10.00
3	12	6.67
4	2	1.11
	67	

* This is a percentage of the 180 students who are represented in Table I as taking at least one course in Fall 1971.

TABLE V

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

NUMBER OF SEMESTERS ATTENDED BY STUDENTS*

Semesters	Total # of Students	% of Students
13	2	1.11
12	2	1.11
11	7	3.89
10	10	5.56
9	18	10.00
8	16	8.89
7	15	8.33
6	10	5.56
5	14	7.78
4	17	9.44
3	22	12.22
2	24	13.33
1	23	12.78
TOTAL	180*	100.00

Average # of Semesters Attended - 5.32

*This data includes summer sessions

TABLE V I

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

COMMULATIVE DEGREE CREDITS

CREDITS	Number of Students	Percentage
61-70	2	1.65
51-60	10	8.26
41-50	10	8.26
31-40	11	9.09
21-30	23	19.02
11-20	27	22.31
1-10	38	31.41
TOTAL	121*	100.00

AVERAGE # of cummulate degree credits - 22.69

* - 36 students received degrees and 23 students had no cumulative degree credits; therefore, they are not reflected in the above total number of students.

TABLE VII

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT

PART TIME STUDENTS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO DROPPED IN AND OUT

TIMES DROPPED OUT AND IN	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
0 - 0	36	20.00
1 - 0 (A)	85	47.22
1 - 1 (B)	16	8.89
2 - 1 (A)	29	16.11
2 - 2 (B)	4	2.22
3 - 2 (A)	8	4.44
3 - 3 (B)	1	.56
4 - 3 (A)	1	.56
TOTAL:	180	100.00

A	B
85	16
29	4
8	1
1	21
123	

(A) Represents students who are currently dropped out.

(B) Represents students who have dropped out one or more times and are currently registered.

TABLE VIII

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

Number of Students Who Received Degrees By Fall 1975

Degrees	Number of Degrees	Percent of Degrees
A.A.S.	22	61.11
A.A.	14	38.89
TOTAL	36*	100.00

* Number of Degrees out of a total part time enrollment of 180 students (approximately 20%).

TABLE IX

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM-FALL 1971 ENROLLMENT LIST

PART TIME STUDENTS

Number of Students Who Enrolled Prior to Fall 1971 and Graduated

Semester	# of Students	% of Students
Fall 1967	4	16.00
Spring 1968	1	4.00
Spring 1969	3	12.00
Fall 1969	1	4.00
Fall 1970	10	40.00
Spring 1971	6	24.00
TOTAL	25	100.00

CONTROL GROUP

CONTROL GROUP - PART TIME STUDENTS

FALL 1971

This section represents a subset of data taken from the control group of students which was randomly selected from a master list of students for the Fall of 1971.

The average number and percentage of course credits attempted and passed are shown in Table I for the Fall semester and Table II for the Spring semester. The Fall course credits passed averaged a rate of slightly under 80.5% with an increase in the rate to over 89% for the Spring semester. For both the Fall and Spring semesters the average credits attempted for each student was 5.8.

The attendance at the Summer sessions is presented in Table III. The average number of credits attempted is 4.3 with an average rate of 96.12% passing. The number of summer sessions attended is presented in Table IV. The majority of students in the control group who attended the Summer sessions (13 out of 22) attended only one session.

The number of semesters of attendance (see table V) range from one to twelve semesters with an average attendance of 5.37 semesters.

Those students who had cummulative credits were found to have an average of 23.2 cummulative credits (see Table VI). This average reflects only those students who had not graduated and had accumulated credits up to the Spring 1975 semester.

The "Drop Out-Drop In" phenomena is examined in Table VII with two categories (A- students currently dropped out; B- students currently returned to R.C.C.).

If we examine the Dropped Out but not returned group, we find that 45 are not currently registered. There are no students in the B category (students who dropped out one or more times and are currently registered) for this group.

In examining Tables VIII and IX we find that 57 actual Fall 1971 control students graduated a total of 4 students, of roughly 7.01 percent.

Out of 57 part time Fall 1971 conrol group students (11 and under credit hours per semester) there were 21 first time students enrolled for 1971.

TABLE I

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

FALL SEMESTER BY YEAR

Year	Number of Students	Number of Credits Attempted	Average # of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Passed	Average # of Credits Passed	Percent of Passing
1967	3	12	4.00	12	4.00	100.00
1968	7	36	5.14	30	4.29	83.33
1969	15	77	5.13	65	4.33	84.42
1970	28	172	6.14	156	5.57	90.70
1971	57 *	342	6.00	268	4.70	78.36
1972	24	140	5.83	115	4.79	82.14
1973	13	73	5.62	44	3.38	60.27
1974	7	40	5.71	28	4.00	70.00
TOTAL	154 **	892		718		80.49
AVERAGE		5.8		4.7		

* Out of a List of 123 names from the Fall 1971 Student Achievement Report, 57 students were classified as part-time students (11 and under credit hours).

** Duplicate count

TABLE II

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

SPRING SEMESTER BY YEAR

Year	Number of Students	Number of Credits Attempted	Average # of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Passed	Average # of Credits Passed	Percent of Passing
1968	2	9	4.50	9	4.50	100.00
1969	11	46	4.18	46	4.18	100.00
1970	18	89	4.94	86	4.78	96.63
1971	28	161	5.75	155	5.54	96.27
1972	35	220	6.29	176	5.03	80.00
1973	18	115	6.39	99	5.50	86.09
1974	12	78	6.50	71	5.92	91.03
TOTAL	124 *	718		642		89.42
AVERAGE		5.8		5.2		

* Duplicate count

TABLE III

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

SUMMER SESSION BY YEAR

Year	Number of Students	Number of Credits Attempted	Average # of Credits Attempted	Number of Credits Passed	Average # of Credits Passed	Percent of Passing
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-
1969	2	7	3.50	7	3.50	100.00
1970	5	25	5.00	25	5.00	100.00
1971	27	107	3.96	98	3.63	91.59
1972	22	107	4.86	107	4.86	100.00
1973	9	37	4.11	37	4.11	100.00
1974	8	31	3.88	27	3.38	87.10
1975	5	21	4.20	21	4.20	100.00
TOTAL	78 *	335		322		96.12
AVERAGE		4.3		4.1		

* Duplicate count

TABLE IV

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

SUMMER SESSIONS

Semester	Number of Students in Attendance	Percentage *
1	13	22.81
2	7	12.28
3	2	3.51
Total	22	[illegible]

* This is a percentage of the 57 students who are represented in Table I as taking at least one course in Fall 1971.

TABLE V

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

Number of Semesters Attended by Students *

Semesters	Total # Of Students	% Of Students
12	1	1.75
11	1	1.75
10	5	8.77
9	4	7.02
8	2	3.51
7	11	19.30
6	4	7.02
5	3	5.26
4	7	12.28
3	7	12.28
2	4	7.02
1	8	14.04
TOTAL	57	100.00

Average No. of Semesters Attended - 5.37

* - This data includes summer sessions.

TABLE VI

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

CUMMULATIVE DEGREE CREDITS

Credits	Number of Students	Percentage
61-70	1	2.33
51-60	3	6.98
41-50	2	4.65
31-40	6	13.95
21-30	10	23.26
11-20	9	20.93
1-10	12	27.90
TOTAL	43*	100.00

Average No. of Cummulative Degree Credits - 23.2

* - 14 students received degrees; therefore they are not reflected in the above total number of students.

TABLE VII

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO DROPPED OUT AND IN

TIMES DROPPED OUT AND IN	# OF STUDENTS	% OF STUDENTS
0-0	12	21.05
1-0 (A)	27	47.37
1-1 (B)	-	-
2-1 (A)	16	28.07
2-2 (B)	-	-
3-2 (A)	2	3.51
TOTAL	57	100.00

A
27
16
2
45

(A) Represents the students who are currently dropped out.

(B) Represents the students who have dropped out one or more times and are currently registered.

TABLE VIII

CONTROL GROUP-FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

Number of Students Who Received Degrees By Fall 1975

Degrees	#	Percentage
A.A.S.	10	71.43
A.A.	4	28.57
TOTAL	14	100.00

TABLE IX

CONTROL GROUP - FALL 1971 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PART TIME STUDENTS

Number of Students Who Enrolled Prior to Fall 1971
and Graduated between Spring 1972 & Spring 1975

Semester	# of Students	% of Students
Fall 1967	1	10.00
Fall 1968	2	20.00
Spring 1969	3	30.00
Summer 1970	1	10.00
Fall 1970	3	30.00
TOTAL	10	100.00

*- 71% of those graduated had enrolled prior to Fall 1971 so they do not represent the first time registered Fall 1971 students.

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